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Title: Need to ensure proper and judicious utilization of funds earmarked for various projects under Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission in Nagpur.

SHRI VILAS MUTTEMWAR (NAGPUR): In order to cope up with the massive problem emerging as a result of rapid urban growth, a coherent urbanization policy was felt to be necessary with a view to scientifically develop the cities with the provision of drinking water, construction of roads and bridges, provision of drainage system, sewerage and sanitation, rapid transport system, buses, houses for slum-dwellers.

To achieve these objectives, the earlier Central Government had conceived a very ambitious scheme viz. Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission (JNNURM) with a provision of ` One lakh crore in 2005. The funds under this scheme were to be provided to the local bodies for implementation of various projects. While the 50% of the funds under this scheme was to be provided by the Central Government to the local bodies, 20% by the State Governments and the rest by the local bodies. The allocation of funds was done in proportion to the population of the city. As such, the actual implementation was to be taken care of and executed by the local bodies. But in the absence of any coordination and monitoring systems, the funds are not being used properly for intended purposes and as a result, the very purpose of this scheme is being defeated.

The instant example is Nagpur. JNNURM has given funds to the tune of Rs. 1348.86 crores – Rs. 1106.60 crores for drinking water projects and ` 242.26 crores for public transport system to the Nagpur Municipal Corporation (NMC). I demand that award of contracts should be transparent in every respect and representatives of Central and State Governments should be present at the time of awarding the contracts and irregularities, if any, should be checked. Besides, there should be proper method of controlling, coordination and monitoring of the funds allocated for these projects under JNNURM. Government should come forward with the facts as to whether any proper analysis has been made to find out various hassles and obstacles which have come in the way of achieving the intended purposes.

The essential services like water etc. are now being privatized and there is a lot of resentment amongst the people on this decision of the Nagpur Municipal Corporation. As a result thereof, the tariff has gone very high. People have now to pay ` 2000 as against ` 200 therefore which they were paying earlier.

In view of the above, I would urge upon the Government to ensure proper and judicious utilization of funds allocated for various projects under JNNURM for Nagpur to avoid misuse.